



Table Manners by Mia King

Reader's Guide and Discussion

SUMMARY

Deidre McIntosh finally has all the ingredients for a perfect life. She has her own line of cakes and cookies, and the perfect boyfriend, Kevin Johnson, one of Seattle's top bachelors. Creative, energetic, and loving, Deidre is the person friends go to when they need a helping hand.

But when Kevin's ex-fiancée, the sultry and successful magazine publisher Sabine Durant, suddenly appears in Seattle, it's Deidre who needs help. Already intimidated by Kevin's glamorous, moneyed world—and his sister, who wants Deidre out of Kevin's life—she knows she's no match for Sabine. Deidre turns to her friends for advice, but finds they're having crises of their own. When her business begins to slip from her fingers, Deidre knows she must do something to keep her career and her love life from imploding. Can everyone's favorite go-to person save herself?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Deidre mistakenly gives an interview to *The Seattle Scoop*, a local celebrity tabloid. How do these articles that appear throughout the story affect your opinion of Deidre? How factual are the articles? How do you feel about supermarket tabloids?
2. Do you think Manuela is too hard on Deidre about the new cookie line? Does she have the right to force her to redo the entire line in such a short time?
3. Did you think it was a good idea for Deidre to appear on the very show that replaced her show, *Live Simple*, with her boyfriend's sister and nemesis, Marla? How do you think she handled herself?
4. Deidre offers to plan William and Alain's commitment ceremony? Do you ever feel like Deidre takes on too much and goes against her philosophy of "Live Simple?"
5. Do you think Deidre should have stuck with her first choice and more reasonably priced dress rather than let the saleswoman talk her into another high-priced designer dress?

6. Deidre saves the day at Kevin's father's birthday gala. Did you see this as a way for Deidre to earn respect and acceptance from his family? Or, did you think it was her way of hiding and staying in her comfort zone?
7. What are your feelings about Sabine, Kevin's successful and gorgeous ex-fiancé? How do your feelings change as the story goes on?
8. The romance between Kevin and Deidre that began in *Good Things* continues in this story. Do you think that Deidre is secure in her relationship with Kevin? How does Kevin hurt or help her feel more secure?
9. Marla sabotages Deidre by lending her dresses that are clearly too small for her. Why is Marla so determined to push Deidre away from Kevin and their family?
10. When life gets too overwhelming for Deidre in Seattle, she runs to Jacob's Point to clear her head. What does she find out about her friend, Lindsey? Do you agree with Lindsey's new attitude about life? Have you ever had an experience that made you completely change your view of life? What event brought Lindsey back around full circle to appreciate her life once again?
11. Deidre calls Kevin in Paris and Sabine answers the phone. Do you think it was a good idea for her to jump on a plane and head to Paris?
12. How was Deidre's trip to Paris a turning point for her? Have you ever been to a place that changed the course of your life?
13. Deidre has a way of turning a negative situation to her advantage. How does she convince the reporter from *The Seattle Scoop* to help her with her marketing plan for Sweet Deidre?
14. Deidre gets some startling news and is afraid to tell Kevin. What did she find out and how does she share the news with Kevin? What was his response?

ABOUT MIA KING

Mia King's novels have been published in the United States, Germany and Norway, and are selections of the Doubleday, Literary Guild, Rhapsody and Book of the Month book clubs. She lives with her family on the Big Island of Hawaii where she is currently at work on her next novel. Visit her website at www.miaking.com for hostess ideas, recipes, book excerpts and more.